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1918

ANNUAL REPORT

DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN

ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Printed by the Direction of the
Honourable J. R. Boyle; Attorney General



A. M. McDONALD

EDMONTON

SUPERINTENDENT

EDMONTON, Alberta, March 4th, 1919.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA,
Parliament Buildings.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit, herewith, the Tenth Annual Report of this branch of your Department, working within the provisions of *The Children's Protection Act of Alberta*, *The Juvenile Courts Act of Alberta*, and *The Dominion Delinquents Act*.

In doing so, allow me to express my appreciation of the sympathetic support you have given to this branch.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

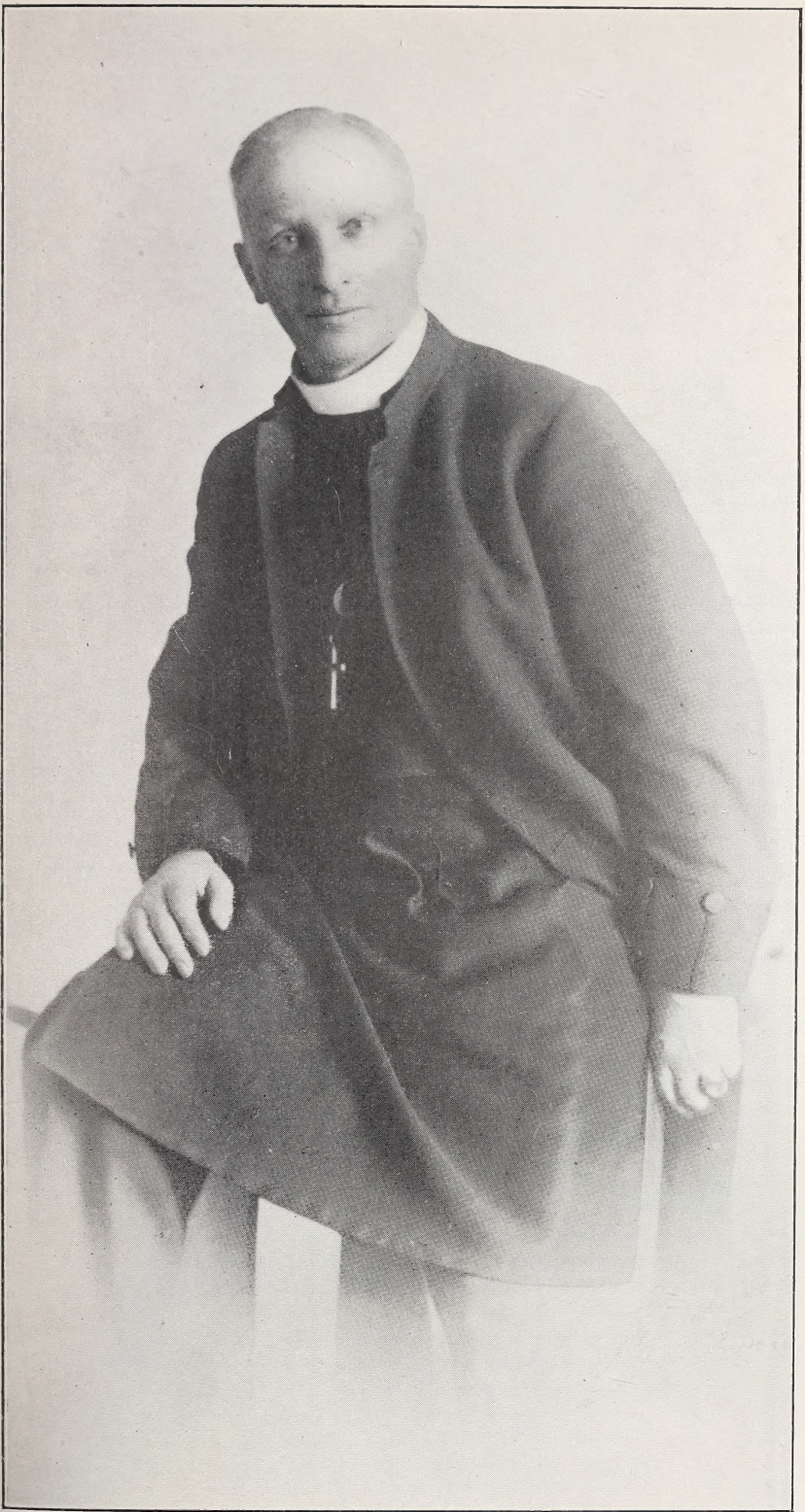
Your obedient servant,

A. M. McDONALD,

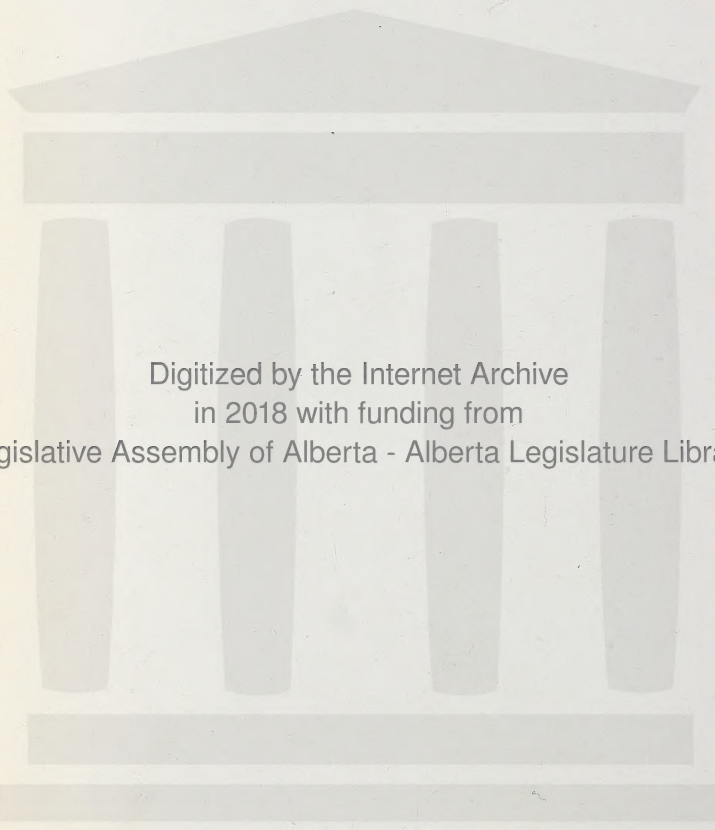
Superintendent.

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The Bishop of Edmonton. His Lordship is our Senior Juvenile Court Commissioner.



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CHILDHOOD'S CLAIMS

The strength of a nation depends upon the quantity and quality of its human resources.

At the opening of the Great War, Britain's supremacy among the nations was thought to consist in her peerless navy, that could keep her shores safe from attack and guard the seas for navigation. As the months passed, she placed her dependence upon her vast material resources in India, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, as well as in the Motherland itself. As the ultimate crisis approached, it was borne home upon her leaders that her last line of defence consisted of the men and women who, with patriotic fervour and a zeal for self-sacrifice, threw themselves into the great effort. Owing to this fact, and to the awful toll of human life which the struggle demanded, greater emphasis has been placed upon the necessity of conserving human resources. Obviously, the source of a nation's citizenship is the home and the cradle. This, perhaps more than anything else, has given impetus to the many movements inaugurated on behalf of children.

The Voice of Suffering Innocents

Tending further to rivet the attention of thoughtful people on the cause of the child, was the great slaughter of innocents that took place in Belgium, Poland, Servia and Armenia. "From the high-walled gardens of ancient Babylon has come down, through the fragrant centuries, the story of an Arabian Merlin who, far in his desert retreat, had but to put his ear to the ground, and he could hear afar on the city streets the patter of children's feet and the tinkle of their laughter.

"It is a far cry to Babylon, so far that the name in our newspapers is still unaccustomed to our eyes, yet the gift of the old magician is a commonplace miracle to-day. Scarcely anyone with a heart to feel, or a mind to understand, who does not always hear the echo of the way-worn feet of the little ones caught in the wilderness of the war."

The cry of these children has taught the world to think in the terms of childhood.

Further tending to make the problem of the child bulk largely in the mind of leaders, was certain evidence gleaned during recruiting days. It was discovered that a lamentably large percentage of the men offering themselves were unfit for military service, because of physical defects or handicaps that might easily have been remedied in early life, or been prevented entirely, had

Recruiting Evidence

their parents or guardians been properly instructed concerning their care and maintenance. In view of these facts, it was not surprising to find a great nation like the United States of America determining that the second year of her war should mark a milestone in the progress of the nation in the scientific care of children in American homes.

GAINS THAT MAY BE RECORDED

With almost unprecedented rapidity, social organizations have been organizing Child Welfare Departments, institutes for parents, baby clinics, and other child-saving activities. In Alberta, the Alberta Social Service League has taken the lead so far as Canadian provincial social service organizations are concerned, and has placed a Child Welfare Secretary in the field, who is devoting his time to conducting an educational campaign, to arousing people to a realization of startling facts concerning the unnecessary mortality among their young children, and to building up community organizations which will be responsible for the continuance of Child Saving Activities in the various localities of the Province.

Baby Saving



The temporary home for feeble-minded children, conducted by the Department of Education.

For some years this Department has urged the necessity of a proper method of caring for the feeble-minded children in the Province, and has never missed an opportunity of agitating for the establishment of a suitable Institution. We are fortunate in being able to record that the Education Department of the Government has, at last, in operation such an Institution. The present building has been rented as temporary quarters, and there is little doubt that a more commodious institu-

Institution For the Feeble- minded

tion (suitably equipped for the education of those who, although they may grow up physically, will, unfortunately, never be anything but children in mentality) will soon be provided. Thus trained and protected, these unfortunates need not be any heavy burden upon the community.

It becomes increasingly apparent that the mental defective problem will not be permanently solved until we have some adequate means of caring for the mental defectives of child-bearing age. With the impulses and passions of adults and the minds of children, these unfortunates become the victims of designing and vicious individuals. Permitted to establish legal homes, they reproduce their kind, and add to the burdens of society.

The theory of Mothers' Allowances is that children are the State's most valuable asset, and, as its most priceless resource, must be conserved; that children whose natural guardians are unable to furnish them adequate means for normal development, must be assisted; that if financial aid is needed, it is the State's duty to provide not merely to keep bodies alive, but to develop children into useful men and women; that, as a normal proposition, this can be done better through homes than by any other device.

Last year the Legislature voted a sum of \$20,000 to be used in assisting the municipalities of the Province in providing allowances for widows. This was done as a kind of experiment. The Government is now committed definitely to the policy, and, before the year is ended, Alberta will have a proper Mothers' Allowances Act in full operation.

It is admitted that whatever machinery is provided for the administration of the Act, there must be careful investigation before granting allowances, and the most rigid inspection after they have been granted. Unworthy mothers must not be assisted. State aid to children should be continued only as long as the State is receiving returns in children properly trained for future citizenship.

One of the great gains that may be recorded, so far as protection of children is concerned, comes to us by way of a new amendment to the Criminal Code. For some time Child Saving Departments have been urging the necessity of some law to prevent vicious actions in homes where children live. Efforts were made to prosecute offenders of this class under the clause in The Juvenile Delinquents Act that provides penalties for contributing to delinquency, and under a similar clause in The Children's Protection Act that provides penalties for contributing to the neglect of children. These prosecutions were in the main very unsatisfactory, and in the great majority of cases failed to reach the real offenders.

By the new section added to the Criminal Code, this particular type of criminal is easily brought to justice. The new section is known as 220A of the Criminal Code, and reads as follows:

"220A. Any person who in the home of a child, by indulgence in sexual immorality, in habitual drunkenness, or in any

other form of vice, causes a child to be in danger of being or becoming immoral, dissolute or criminal, or the morals of a child to be injuriously affected, or renders the home of a child an unfit place for such child to be in, shall be liable, on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or to both fine and imprisonment.

“(2) For the purpose of this section, ‘child’ means a boy or girl apparently or actually under the age of sixteen years.

“(3) It shall not be a valid defence to a prosecution under this section that the child is of too tender years to understand or appreciate the nature of the act complained of, or to be immediately affected thereby.

“(4) No prosecution shall be instituted under this section unless it be at the instance of some recognized society for the protection of children, or officer of a Juvenile Court, without the authorization of the Attorney-General of the Province in which the offence is alleged to have been committed, nor shall any prosecution be commenced after the expiration of six months from the time of the commission of the alleged offence.”

FURTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT MUST BE EMPHASIZED

During the siege of Epidemic Influenza through which the Province has just passed, attention has been called, in a more vivid way than ever before, to the necessity of better housing accommodation for a great many of our people. Recently, the Medical Health Officer of our capital city made the statement that the death rate in small unsanitary homes was three times



A Country Slum.

that in the larger and well-appointed homes. Many willing workers, when the epidemic was at its peak, had their first lesson in how the other half of the population lives. Many of them were startled to think that whole families could live in small one-roomed shacks, which provided the only accommodation for every function of life. More startling still is the fact that in many of our larger towns and cities there is absolutely no by-law governing housing accommodations.

The time has come when this problem must be considered in a very serious way. In some sections of the Province, where foreign-speaking people have settled, and are apparently attempting to transplant the habits and customs of their old land into this new country, there are more unsanitary houses than there are homes that provide for normal living conditions. If space permitted, it would be easy to quote instance after instance where families, brought to the attention of this Department, were living in unbelievably contracted quarters, in which father and mother, children and hired help, slept, ate and dressed in one room. Little wonder that in some of these localities, the deadly epidemic took its heaviest toll of human life. Little wonder that in these homes many boys and girls grow up without that refinement and delicacy so necessary to sound morals.

An Urgent Problem

At the beginning of the Great War, cities and towns were compelled to restrict their expenditures to the absolute essentials. In some of them there was a disposition to regard play grounds and open spaces as luxuries with which they could safely and easily dispense. As a result we have not (for instance, in the capital city of the Province) the same supervised play-grounds we had four years ago. Calgary, we believe, is in a little different position.

Play An Essential

The benefits of play upon child-life cannot be over-estimated. Not very long since, Mayor John F. Hylan, of New York City, issued the following proclamation. It was intended as an urgent message to parents during war times, but there is no doubt that his contention is equally important in peace times:

“To the Parents and Guardians of the Children of the City of New York:

“Whereas, the United States being engaged in war, we recognize the necessity of safe-guarding our children from the dangers of moral laxity and the increase of juvenile crime, incident to war-time conditions; and,

“Whereas, appreciating at all times the obligation of developing our children along lines of healthy normal physical and moral development, we recognize the present special necessity for great care and attention for their proper guardianship and in directing their leisure time away from the tendencies of juvenile crime—

“As Mayor of the City of New York, I therefore urge all parents and guardians of children to increase their efforts in providing healthy play activities for their children and to give their hearty co-operation to all agencies working for this cause during the period of the war.”

A sound body and a sound mind make for sound morals. It would be better to dispense with some of the ornaments of our public school buildings than to rob our children of the opportunity of supervised play.

A further advance for which this Department has contended for some years, and which does not seem even yet to be reasonably near, is the necessity of providing for a psychiatric clinic. The laboratory method has prevailed less in dealing with dependency and delinquency, than in most other fields of social work. If these problems are to be solved in any satisfactory way, there must be a greater insistence on the study of the individual, even if less attention is paid to mere laws.

In our Institutions, where delinquents are detained, you will find a large percentage of defectives held as punishment for crimes which have been committed, in the hope that the Institution will be able to give them some reformatory training. Society is criminal in holding these individuals responsible for their crimes, and is absolutely foolish in anticipating any reformatory results from a period of ordinary institutional training.

It would be a great assistance to our Juvenile Court Commissioners in making decisions, and to the Department in subsequently dealing with wards committed to it, if the advice of a trained psychiatrist were available.

It is generally expected, that among the legislation which will be enacted at the coming session of the Dominion Parliament will be an Act dealing with the creation of a Child Welfare Bureau for the Dominion, similar to that which was established in the United States in 1912. Recommendations to this effect have sprung up in various Provinces, and resolutions have been sent from numerous societies.

A Dominion Child Welfare Bureau

It would be the primary duty of such a Bureau to gather all information concerning child welfare problems from every part of the Dominion, and make it immediately available to every other part. Or (to quote from Social Welfare): "If Canada had a Central Children's Bureau, and a report came in as it did in October, that, in the City of Montreal, 2,080 babies died in one month, an immediate investigation and report could be executed, and on its results, that city and all other cities in Canada could act, or the Provinces wherein they are situated could move for the improvement of conditions and the reduction of the number of victims.

"Or, to illustrate again, Ontario may be making considerable effort to meet the problem of the feeble-minded child by the creation of the specialized class and the Provincial Institution. It would be the business of the proposed bureau to make its pioneer experience immediately available to every other province contemplating plans for the proper care of this important class."

Or again, a Bureau finding that two or three Provinces have well working Mothers' Pensions schemes in existence would scatter this information broadcast, and make it easier to obtain the legislation in other places. As a result of a Central Bureau gleaning information, publishing it, and making investigations into peculiar conditions in particular places, there would be reasonable hope of arriving in a short time at some well-defined standards for Child Saving Activities instead of continuing in the more or less haphazard way in which these activities are conducted throughout the Dominion at the present time.

DEPENDENCY

In a community such as this, a large number of dependent children is a sad commentary upon the efficiency of our community enterprises. There are serious defects in a community when, because of misfortunes, mistakes or adventures, any large number of children must be taken from the custody of their parents.

Community Defects

Back of this failure there are many causes that might be eliminated by concerted effort. Drink, preventable accidents, bad housing, the mating of the mentally unfit, unemployment, wife-desertion, and the lack of training for the sacred vocation of parenthood, are among those that might be cited. Many of these, it must be confessed, are community rather than individual failures.

Prevalent among the causes leading to the breaking-up of family life, so far as the experience of this Department was concerned, in the year 1918, was the slight emphasis that is placed by many upon the sacredness of the marriage vow. In not a few families we have been compelled to take charge of children born to parents who lived for a term of years out of wedlock. At the end of the period one or other of the parents became discontented with the home conditions, formed new attachments, and entered into marital alliances, with the almost inevitable result that the children of the first union were neglected. To any one not familiar with the work, it would be startling to know the actual number of homes that are set up without the sacred basis of the marriage altar.

Neglect of Marriage Altar

Wife-desertion is, if anything, growing more frequent. In many cases we have been compelled to take temporary charge of children where mothers were deserted at a time in life when they were unable to care for themselves, let alone protect their children. It would appear as though the wife-deserter should be dealt with in a much sterner fashion than hitherto. It would no doubt have a good effect if a number of these men could be brought back (if necessary, from long distances, or from foreign lands), and made to face their responsibility as fathers and husbands, or serve long terms in penal institutions. The man who pledges protection to a woman, and becomes responsible for the birth of children into his home, and who, cowardly or thoughtlessly, breaks that woman's heart, causes the children hardship and prevents them from having any decent opportunity of growing into good citizens, is a much greater criminal than the cattle-thief or the highway-robber. Law will have to recognize this fact, and deal with the culprit according to his crime.

Dealing With Deserters

This report would not tell the whole truth, were it not to make mention of the comparatively large number of children who were adjudged neglected because of the immorality of mothers and fathers. The cases coming under this classification are distressing in the extreme.

**Immoral
Parents**

Were it not for our belief in the power of a new environment to work miracles in the life of a child, we would frequently despair of the future of children born into homes where the whole atmosphere is surcharged with vicious thinking and acting.

Mention has already been made of the new section to the Criminal Code, that makes it easier to deal with this class of offenders against childhood. There is still the necessity of educating the officials of the land to believe the full seriousness of this offence.

Pressing economic conditions cannot longer be ignored in a discussion of this subject. When the cost of necessities goes soaring and there is no wage increase, or one that is altogether incommensurable with the increase in the price of living, hardship necessarily follows. Parents are compelled to buy food that is not nourishing, clothe their children in garments

**Pressing
Economic
Conditions**

that are insufficient or unsuited for winter climates. They have no reserve upon which to call in the case of sickness, and are simply forced to deprive their children of the ordinary necessities. To some this may seem an exaggeration, but will any reader of this report tell us how the head of a family of five children, in addition to the parents, can provide the home with the normal necessities on a salary of \$70 or \$80 per month? Rent has not been abnormally high. Fuel has grown to be a big item. Milk and meat can only be purchased at prices that ten years ago would have seemed unbelievable. Shoes and woollen goods are in much the same position. It would take an expert accountant to tell the ordinary father how to make the wage mentioned meet the necessities of such a home.

Experience shows that, as wages decrease, infant mortality increases, and there is little doubt, although statistics in this regard are more difficult to secure, that in the same ratio, ill-nourished and tubercular cases increase.

In dealing with cases of dependency, the most careful investigation is necessary. The investigator should not only understand the present conditions in the home, but be able to trace the antecedent causes, and to detect, if possible, the best methods of keeping the home intact.

**Careful
Investigation
Needed**

Disgusted with conditions as seen in the home, and impatient with apparently hopeless parents, many social workers have been tempted to take the easy way and to apply for the immediate breaking-up of the home. Occasionally there is the temptation to go to the other extreme, and to save the home at the expense of the children. The separating of families should only be considered when every other possible

remedy is out of the question. If Child Saving Agencies have reason to know the curse of bad homes, they have equally good reason to understand the blessing of a good home.

It is reasonable to believe that when authorities see the wisdom of providing a greater number of officers for this particular kind of work, many slovenly unsuitable homes will witness a transformation. This kind of work cannot be done in a moment. It takes tact, patience, and perseverance to get results.

THE UNMARRIED FAMILY

A writer in one of our best magazines has coined the phrase which we have chosen as the title of this paragraph. It will no doubt gain a considerable currency in the discussion of the problem of the unmarried mother and her child. In the use of the phrase the writer insists that a consideration of this problem must keep in mind in each individual instance at least three persons—the father, the mother, and the child. Until quite recently, the world over, the mother of an illegitimate child was compelled to bear the entire burden. The child took her name. She must find some means for its maintenance and support. With very rare exception, there has been no effort to establish paternity and frequently no effort to compel the father to undertake his fair share of responsibility.

The Child Born Out of Wedlock

During recent years, workers interested in this problem have been watching the success of the law in Sweden, and more recently such legislation as that passed in the State of Minnesota. In both of these instances an attempt is made in the case of each child born out of wedlock to find the father. In each case where a father refuses to discharge his duty to his illegitimate offspring, it is considered as serious a crime as to neglect the children in his legitimate home. In each case the burden for support and maintenance, until the child is past school age, rests with the father; and in case of his death, the law in each instance provides that the illegitimate child shall share equally with his legitimate children in his inheritance. This would seem to be a fair and reasonable provision. It will, of course, fail to meet all the requirements, in that paternity is frequently hard to establish.

More Advanced Laws

Many social workers have urged the marriage of parents of illegitimate children, thinking thereby to save the good name of the mother and child. There is no doubt an occasional instance where this is the proper course to pursue. Hurried marriages enacted under a cloud, are however, in the majority of cases, undesirable. Instead of offering protection to the mother and child, they frequently lead to future complications and unhappiness.

Marriage Should Not Be Urged

The time has certainly come when the innocent child should be relieved from the stigma which society has been only too ready to place upon it. The very names by which its peculiar state in life is described, in themselves place a stigma upon the child, and very often block the path to its future progress and usefulness.

In cases where it is possible, and where for other reasons it may be considered in the interests of the mother herself, the

mother and child should no doubt be kept together. In a great many cases it will be found that this very method ruins the future of both mother and child. After an experience of dealing with scores of these children each year (last year we placed 106 illegitimate children) this Department thinks that no definite rule can be laid down for the guidance of all cases, but that each individual case must be treated upon its own merits.

This problem has been urged in previous reports, and is again emphasized in the hope that some definite steps may be taken, and that a more suitable law with reference to the unmarried family may be soon placed among our statutes.

STATISTICS RE DEPENDENTS

Number Dealt With, 1034

Sex of Dependents		Under 7	
Male	493	" 8	38
Female	541	" 9	46
		" 10	37
	1034	" 11	49
		" 12	47
		" 13	29
		" 14	72
		" 15	65
		" 16	77
		" 17	75
		" 18	65
			13

Age of Dependents	
Under 1	184
" 2	63
" 3	39
" 4	52
" 5	40
" 6	43

1034

Religion of Dependents

Church of England	170	Greek Catholic	13
Roman Catholic	218	Seventh Day Adventist	6
Protestant	152	Salvation Army	9
Presbyterian	170	Evangelist	1
Methodist	126	No Religion	25
Baptist	41	Congregationalist	2
Lutheran	85	Christian	4
Hebrew	3	Latter Day Saints	3
Quaker	1		
Greek Orthodox	5		1034

Nationality of Dependents

Canadian	329	Half-breed	22
English	147	Norwegian	26
American	136	Ruthenian	10
French	30	Slav	3
French-Canadian	31	Hungarian	10
Scotch	80	Dutch	4
Irish	25	Indian	2
Russian	43	Negro	2
Austrian	28	Finlander	12
Galician	7	Japanese	1
Hebrew	3	Ukrainian	3
Greek	1	Roumanian	3
Welsh	3	Scandinavian	1
Pole	9	Danish	2
Swede	12		
Italian	2		1034
German	47		

Placing of Dependents

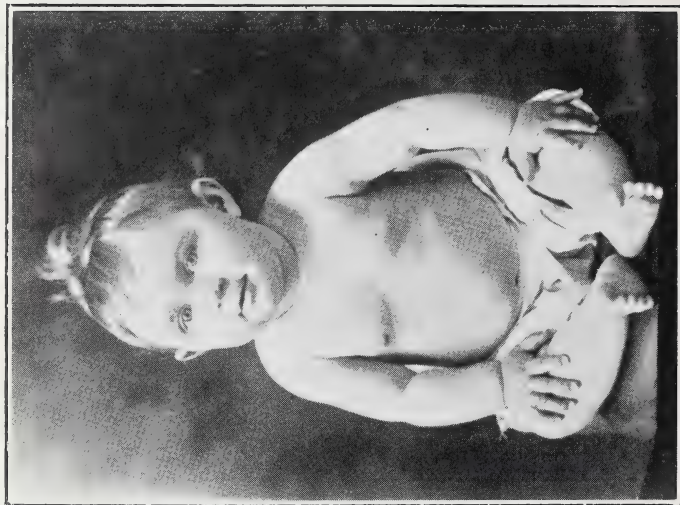
Adopted	182	Married	7
Placed at work	267	Hospital	15
Returned to Relatives	362	In Shelters	94
Placed in Protestant Institutions	28	Outside Shelters	13
Placed in Roman Catholic Institutions	18	Home for Defectives	2
Died	32	Deported	2
Ran away	12		1034

Dependents, Electoral Districts From

Edmonton	324	Wetaskiwin	7
Calgary	293	Innisfail	6
Medicine Hat	79	High River	2
Lethbridge	30	Beaver River	1
Victoria	5	Edson	5
Alexandra	6	Leduc	6
Stettler	8	Lacombe	6
Red Deer	5	Cardston	1
Macleod	4	Okotoks	2
Peace River	8	Lac Ste. Anne	3
Mitford	3	Acadia	3
Hand Hills	10	Wainwright	9
Gleichen	3	Stony Plain	3
St. Albert	30	Grouard	7
Sturgeon	20	St. Paul	1
Pembina	9	Bow Valley	2
Camrose	4	Ponoka	5
Rocky Mountain	13	Cochrane	2
Taber	4	Olds	3
Nanton	1	Coronation	7
Pincher Creek	3	Athabasca	1
Ribstone	7	Little Bow	3
Vermilion	8	Clearwater	1
Vegreville	20	Outside Province	29
Didsbury	8		
Redcliff	5		1034
Sedgewick	9		

Dependents, Placed Out in Electoral Districts

Edmonton	275	Pembina	8
Calgary	172	Edson	5
Medicine Hat	48	Coronation	8
Lethbridge	12	Athabasca	2
Wetaskiwin	7	Cardston	5
Red Deer	7	Stettler	11
St. Albert	23	Acadia	4
Okotoks	3	St. Paul	6
Sturgeon	23	Lac Ste. Anne	6
Peace River	4	Macleod	3
Little Bow	7	Vegreville	9
Leduc	4	Pincher Creek	1
Vermilion	6	High River	4
Nanton	2	Cochrane	4
Victoria	7	Clearwater	1
Redcliff	4	Ponoka	3
Gleichen	7	Warner	1
Bow Valley	6	Clareholm	6
Sedgewick	17	Shelters	95
Beaver River	3	Hospitals	14
Ribstone	6	Camrose	8
Lacombe	6	Died	32
Hand Hills	7	Married	7
Grouard	8	Ran away	12
Taber	3	Deported	2
Alexandra	6	Outside Province	63
Rocky Mountain	7	Outside Shelters (pending be- ing placed)	13
Didsbury	4		
Wainwright	10		1034
Innisfail	7		



A trio of happy children taken from wretched surroundings, but now in good foster homes.

THE HOME IS THE UNIT OF SOCIETY

That the home is the unit of society should be kept constantly in mind when trying to solve the various problems connected with child saving. There should be no disposition to break up any home as long as there is reasonable hope that it can be improved and become a safe place for children. When children are taken from their own home, it is folly to keep them for any lengthy period in an Institution, for in Institutions it is easy to develop what is known as an institutionalized type, a sort of dull spiritless machine, lacking initiative and originality. In Institutions everything must be done according to rigid rules and a strict program. Little opportunity is left for the development of individual traits or initiative.

The Home Idea

A child that is maintained in an Institution until it is able to earn its own living, finds itself at that time thrown on the world without anything to tie to. There is no place that he can call home, and no one whom he has any reason to believe has any peculiar interest in his welfare.

It is largely for these reasons that the institutional care of children has been to a great extent discarded and the foster-home idea has replaced it. During the last year, this Department placed 449 children in foster-homes in the Province. We are glad to report that there have been a sufficient number of applications to meet the demands, and that the records of our visitors during the last four years indicate quite clearly that we are gradually finding a higher class of homes in which to place children. This means much for the welfare of the thousands of children that have to be placed.

Foster Homes

With an increase of our staff, we have been able during this year to make more careful investigation before placing children, and have already found that on account of this we shall avoid the necessity of changing as large a percentage of our wards as was formerly necessary.

We insert two or three paragraphs from our visitors' reports handed in to the office, which speak for themselves. If space permitted scores of equally interesting reports could be reproduced here:

"I recommend that this child be left in this home. She is perfectly happy and getting exceptionally good training. At present she is taking a correspondence course in dressmaking, which cost \$40, and she is able to make a simple dress herself. She is studying music and has \$60 in the bank."

"When in the . . . district recently, I visited the above named children, placed with Mr. and Mrs. . . . of that place. Here is a little family that the Department has every reason to be proud of. They have

exceptionally good foster-parents. None of these children are attending school at the present time—only one is of school age and she will attend just as soon as the school is opened in the district, which I think will be this fall. All the children were well clothed, and looked healthy and exceptionally happy.”

“In accordance with your instructions of the 9th inst. I accompanied Mr. . . . of . . . on a visit to the above named children placed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. . . . who adopted these children when all three were babies, and are to be complimented on the way in which they are being brought up.

“ . . . is the only one who is old enough to attend school; but, on account of his undergoing an operation recently, he has not been attending for the past month or so. All three children are well clothed and look healthy and happy, and will in years to come be a credit to their foster-parents.

“I might say that these three children were placed in this home by Mrs. McLaren, therefore she has a particular interest in them. I might also say that I think Mrs. McLaren should be written to, thanking her for the great interest she has taken in placing these and other children in good foster homes.”

Attention should again be called to the difficulty of protecting the older boys and girls from the greed of those who otherwise would look upon them as cheap hired servants. Those who take infants or very young children have seldom any selfish purpose to serve. Many who take older children treat them with every consideration, but there are still those who would not hesitate to sacrifice the interests of the child for a petty pecuniary consideration.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR

A. R. BROOKE

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit herewith my eighth annual report, covering the work assigned to and dealt with by my branch of your Department for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

In addition to the regular inspection of homes, children, and conditions in general, a considerable amount of work had to be done with respect to investigation of suffering and hardships existing in families throughout the province, due to the prevalence of Influenza. Unfortunately, in some cases children were left orphans, their parents having succumbed to the disease, and had to be taken under our care and control.



Two wards of the Department who have been given a new prospect in life.

The work of investigation and adjustment shows an increase on previous years, but I am pleased to report that our cases were disposed of satisfactorily and many without the necessity of Court proceedings. As an indication and for the purpose of comparison with previous years, I might mention the mileage travelled on inspection and investigation was as follows: By train 49,489, by road 10,357, making a total of 59,846 miles.

Due to the increase in the number of cases to be investigated the inspection of conditions prevailing in foster homes has not been all that might be desired, and I would suggest, if possible, that this particular work of the Department be given still more attention during the year 1919. To my mind, it is essential to visit the homes frequently during the first few years, so that the Department may be satisfied that the child is receiving proper guidance, under good living conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) A. R. BROOKE,

Inspector.

DELINQUENCY AND ITS CAUSES

Delinquent children may be divided into three groups: the mischievous, the offenders against property, and sex delinquents.

Delinquents Classified A large proportion of the younger offenders belong to the first group. Many of them, who in legal parlance would be called incorrigible, would in the home atmosphere simply be termed "naughty." They are hard to manage, wilful, do damage to property, play truant, and indulge in other more or less serious pranks. To the second group belong those who, if not checked, are liable to find their way into penal institutions. They steal property, go joy-riding in other people's automobiles, commit burglaries with the skill and ingenuity of the experienced thief. This class of offender is usually caught. People whose property is injured to any considerable extent are only too ready to report, and in most instances a careful investigation will locate the guilty party. To the third group belong the older boys and girls (some of them not very old). There is reason to believe that only a small percentage of this class of delinquents is discovered. Information is hard to secure. Even innocent victims hesitate to give information, fearing that discredit may be cast upon themselves. Many juveniles begin this practice, we think, out of curiosity. The love of a secret, or indulgence in something forbidden by their elders, urges them on. Only in a small part are they influenced in the first instance by genuine sex inclinations. The habit once formed, it is exceedingly difficult to check. Upon boys and girls, especially those who have not been properly instructed in their homes, the desire grows, and sometimes moral life is sadly crippled even before parents or teachers become informed of the facts. It must be remembered that a considerable number of children commit more than one class of offence.

That there were 513 cases of delinquency before our Juvenile Courts last year, indicates the necessity of prying into the primary causes and of taking some radical steps for their removal. Among the causes for these delinquencies negligent parents must first be named. A delinquent child stands for a delinquent home in one form or another. Negligence may begin in the failure to instruct children properly in their homes, to make the home as attractive for growing boys and girls as it ought to be. We, personally, have little appreciation of the home that has perfect appointments for the entertainment of company, but no room for the rowdy boy and his companions, or the 'teen age girl and her associates. The carelessness of parents often extends a great deal further than this, and is seen especially when 'teen age boys and girls are picked up on the street, in restaurants, or in places of doubtful amusement at hours when they should be at home, or at least under the direct supervision of

some adult. Very frequently when parents are informed of the delinquency of their children, they look surprised and express their amazement something like this: "We had no idea that our children were spending their time in such places"—as if it were not their first duty in life to discover just what their children are doing, and where they are spending their time!

The cheap dance-hall, the low-grade restaurant, and the poorly supervised rooming-house are some of the traps in which unwary girls lose themselves. If country parents knew the dangers to which girls are exposed when they enter these places they would hesitate before leaving them unprotected in a great city. Municipal authorities should undertake by their by-laws to make proper supervision and control of these places mandatory.

Traps For the Unwary

The disposition on the part of some parents to have their children in positions where they can earn money very early in life, and the inability of others to prevent their children having to earn money, is a further cause of frequent delinquency. Boys out in the streets selling newspapers or delivering parcels when they should be spending the major portion of their time in school, and their spare hours on the playground, furnish many recruits for the Juvenile Court and the Industrial School. A great halo has been thrown about the street trades, and boys have been taught to believe that it is a good school in which to learn the principles of trade and money-getting. There are, no doubt, many examples of eminent men who have begun their mercantile careers in this way, but if the number of boys, who instead of emerging from street life into prosperous mercantile business, have lost themselves in the maelstrom were known, the romance of street trading would be largely lost.

A great deal of sympathy should be extended to parents who because of distress in their home, are compelled to allow their boys and girls to go into employment in their early 'teens. It is unfair, however, that this condition should exist—unfair not only to the parents, but to the children. The dangers that await them are many. Even if they succeed in avoiding these dangers, they are too often doomed to drudgery for the rest of their lives. "Blind alley" vocations are not only dangerous, but lead nowhere.

Here again the foreign problem impinges itself. In the foreign home the 'teen age boy or girl is apt to be the leader, or at least the interpreter, of Canadian thought to the parents. Under the cloak of leadership they not infrequently hide their own misconduct. It is a big problem that will only be solved by the thorough Canadianization of the foreign portion of our population.

The Foreign Problem

It is notorious, the number of traders and others who are willing to make dividends out of the delinquency of boys and girls. Not infrequently, during the last year especially, have we discovered boys guilty of thieving, who were taking the stolen articles and selling them for mere pittance to others who claimed to be innocent as to where the articles came from, but

Trading On Delinquency

who did not seem to think it at all strange that they should be able to buy them for little or nothing.

Mention should also be made of the hardened criminals, and there are not a few of them, who are prepared to ruin 'teen age children, apparently for no reason but the fiendish gratification that they get out of it. We have

Hardened
Contributors had during the past year several groups of boys being led into nameless vice by one man, and similarly we have instances of girls who were apparently harbored, and taught the ways of evil, by older women. It would be difficult to give in detail a full category of the causes that lead to early delinquency, but we think we have stated in this brief way those that are mostly accountable for the cases coming to the attention of this Department.

STATISTICS RE DELINQUENTS

Number Dealt With, 513.

Male	496
Female	17

513

Age of Delinquents

Seven	11	Thirteen	68
Eight	25	Fourteen	80
Nine	22	Fifteen	85
Ten	39	Sixteen	61
Eleven	53		
Twelve	69		513

Religion of Delinquents

Roman Catholic	96	Latter Day Saints	18
Presbyterian	74	Protestant	12
Methodist	44	Nazarene	1
Church of England	89	Reform Church	1
Lutheran	50	Adventist	4
Hebrew	14	Nonconformist	1
Salvation Army	13	Congregational	5
Baptist	25	Plymouth Brethren	2
Greek Catholic	16	No Religion	3
Greek Orthodox	37		
Christian Science	8		513

Nationality of Delinquents

Russian	38	Indian	5
English	77	Belgian	6
Canadian	176	Hollander	3
American	47	Polish	5
Austrian	33	Ruthenian	1
German	21	Negro	2
Jewish	13	Slav	4
Irish	9	Chinese	2
Scotch	21	Finlander	1
Welsh	7	Danish	4
French	6	Italian	4
Swedish	10	Roumanian	1
Norwegian	9		
Half-breed	8		513

Offences

Theft	232	Mischief	3
Damage to property	92	False Pretences	2
Assault	3	Cruelty to animals	1
Incorrigible	21	Prairie fire	1
Against by-laws	44	Forgery	3
Indecent assault	5	Arson	3
Railway by-law	21		
House-breaking	82		513

Disposition of Delinquents

Made wards of Department ...	36	Under supervision	1
Warned	69	Paid damages and probation..	50
Paid damages	163	Deported	2
Dismissed	31	Joined navy	1
Withdrawn	4	Sent to country	3
Suspended sentence	40	Industrial School	10
Probation	54		
Fined	49		513



A delinquent girl in the Juvenile Court in Calgary. The judge and officers conducting her case are sympathetic members of her own sex.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT

When is a Court more than a Court? When it is a Juvenile Court conducted with the object of saving the child rather than of meting out justice.

Juvenile Courts were organized, not as Criminal Courts, but as Child-Saving Institutions, from which it was expected all semblance of criminal procedure and penal methods would be excluded. Unfortunately, in many cases, they have become little more than Police Courts where children are tried. In such an atmosphere the future well-being of the child is too often a matter of secondary consideration. Frequently the commissioner, in a spirit of vindictiveness, commits the child to some Institution, with the sole aim of punishment.

A Child-Saving Institution

Strange as it may seem, there are many magistrates who find themselves uncomfortable in the presence of delinquent boys, because they have not the power of using the lash and the whipping-post. No doubt there are some cases in which a whipping might be administered with good effect, but the spirit in which it would frequently be administered is in itself the best condemnation of corporal punishment. In not a few instances, the trouble begins with the police official who first arrests the boy. Out of the scores of cases that have been reported to us by letter or by long distance 'phone during the last year, it would be safe to say that in 90 per cent. of them the police official arresting the boy thought it necessary to insert something to the effect that the boy was really a bad boy, and should be sent to the Industrial School, or receive some other severe punishment. When the prosecuting officer conducts his case in this spirit, it is apt to have some effect upon the atmosphere of the Court, and the decision of the judge.

A Wrong Viewpoint

It is the business of the Juvenile Court to save the child by whatever means it may have at its command. If the child be feeble-minded, it should be sent to an Institution for the Feeble-Minded or to some other suitable place for care and protection. If there is a reasonable possibility of the child making good in his own home under the supervision of a probation officer, either a volunteer or a paid official, he should be returned to his parents. Not infrequently a warning to the child and an admonition to the parents is sufficient. In cases where it appears that the parents have been careless or indifferent to the welfare of their children, it is sometimes a good thing to impose a fine or to put them under bond for the good behaviour of their child. This latter course has been adopted in several family cases that have come under our notice during the

Different Procedures Taken

year 1918, and with few exceptions the results have been good. In other cases, it will be sufficient to take the boy from his present surroundings, or the gang with which he has been associating, and place him in some other good private home where he will have the opportunity of going to school and making a man of himself. Only as a last resort, should a boy be sent to the Training School. In such an Institution boys of all ages from twelve to eighteen, and guilty of all kinds of offences, from nameless vices to mere mischief, are congregated. In spite of all that can be done by careful overseers and guardians, they will find ways of entertaining each other with their personal histories and stories of their various escapades, and the place too frequently becomes a little school in juvenile crime. We do not mean that a boy should never be sent for institutional training. There are certain types of boys that cannot be dealt with in any other way.

The efficiency of the Juvenile Court depends primarily upon the adaptability of the Commissioner presiding. In the great majority of instances, we, in this province, have been fortunate in the selection that has been made and our Commissioners, especially those in the larger cities, who have given their time ungrudgingly to this work, are worthy of the very highest commendation.

**The
Personnel
of the Court**

The time is no doubt nearing, when it will be necessary to have paid Commissioners, giving their entire time to this work in the larger cities. It is doubtful, however, if it would be possible to select paid officials who would give better service than that which is now gratuitously rendered. When the time comes that the Province is prepared to pay for the services of Juvenile Court Commissioners, we would suggest that comparatively few such officials be appointed, and that they be given considerable territory to cover; that they carry on their work much as do the District Court judges at the present time, going from place to place within their various districts as their services may be required. We sometimes feel that we have no recognized standard for Juvenile Court procedure, and that it will be difficult to gain this until such time as we have the district Juvenile Court Commissioners, and they have the opportunity of coming together in conference at least once a year, to discuss the problems relative to Juvenile Court Procedure, and of laying down certain great principles upon which they all shall act.

**Paid Com-
missioners**

In some places throughout the United States, there is an agitation to have the authority of the Juvenile Court enlarged, so as to include a great many family cases. This would seem to be a logical move. In many home difficulties where children are concerned, it is found that there are family troubles that must be removed before much can be done for the children. Quarrelling parents, drunken or deserting husbands, careless and indifferent mothers, must first be dealt with. It would seem only natural that the Court that has to decide upon

**Enlarging the
Authority of
the Courts**

the course to be pursued for the child, should have a larger say in what is to be done with regard to the home difficulties. To some extent, of course, this prevails at the present time. In Edmonton, alone, last year, there were fifty cases of adults charged with contributing either to the delinquency or neglect of their children, and forty-eight convictions were registered. We are firmly of the opinion that to save the child is largely to be done through the education, reclamation, and, if necessary, the punishment of adults.

The appointment of women Commissioners to deal with girl cases in the Juvenile Court has proved so eminently satisfactory that the wisdom of such appointments is no longer questioned. In making the experiment the Province was particularly fortunate in securing the services of such competent women as Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Langford, Mrs. Jamieson, and Mrs. Bustard. No doubt the wisdom and tact with which they have handled their responsible duties has been the most effective weapon in silencing criticism with respect to the new departure. From this time on, this special arrangement for the trial of girls will be considered so much a part of our system that no added emphasis or reference need be given to it.

Women Commissioners

JUVENILE COURT COMMISSIONERS

Town	Name.
Andrew	Robert H. Mennie.
Athabasca	Russell Edgar Bannerman.
Blairmore	James William Gresham.
Bashaw	Alfred J. Whitby.
Brooks	Charles E. Anderson.
Bassano	Robert Sherritt.
Camrose	Henry Philip Foucar.
Calgary	Alexander McTaggart.
Calgary	T. A. P. Frost.
Calgary	F. D. Beveridge.
Calgary	John McAdam Sharpe.
Calgary	Alice Jane Jamieson.
Calgary	Annie Elizabeth Langford.
Coronation	Aremis Towns.
Claresholm	William McNicol.
Cardston	Josiah Austin Hammer.
Coleman	Edmund Disney.
Consort	Charles Henry Noble.
Cowley	A. J. Snyder.
Cowley	D. R. McIvor.
Chauvin	Thomas Armour.
Delia	Archibald John Campbell.
Donalda	Arthur L. Harvey.
Edmonton	Percy Henry Tucker.
Edmonton	H. Allen Gray, D.D.
Edmonton	Rev. Michael Murphy.
Edmonton	Emily F. Murphy.
Edmonton	Archibald Menzies McDonald.
Fort Saskatchewan	John Paul.
Foremost	John Edward Charters.
Grande Prairie	Adelia H. Bustard.
Grande Prairie	Alexander Forbes.
Gleichen	James Leigh Laycock.
Grouard	Vermer Maurice.
Grouard	Peter Tompkins.
Hardisty	George Hedley Holmes.
High River	A. W. Hamilton Thompson.
Islay	William Berty Cairns.
Innisfail	John Draught Lauder.
Innisfail	William G. McArthur.
Irricana	Robert J. Fowler.
Lacombe	Edward Montrose Sharpe.
Lacombe	George Hutton.
Lamont	Albert Ernest Archer.
Lethbridge	W. V. McMillan.
Lethbridge	J. D. Higinbotham.
Medicine Hat	O. D. Austin.
Medicine Hat	James Rae.
Mirror	Horace J. Rymer.
Magrath	Orsin Alpin Woolley.
Mannville	Daniel B. McLean.
Macleod	Allen Ban McDonald.
Nanton	Aaron Jessup.
Olds	Samuel James Craig.
Peace River	William Minshaw.
Ponoka	William K. Turner.
Provost	William Hamilton.
Peace River Crossing	George E. Macleod.

Peace River Crossing	James Davidson Jones.
Peace River Crossing	John P. Gaudet.
Red Deer	J. Wallace.
St. Albert	Walter Lewis Viness.
St. Albert	Edmund Poirier.
St. Paul des Metis ..	Joseph E. Cloutier.
Stony Plain	Murdoch McKinley.
Strathmore	William Vickory.
Strome	W. E. George Hunter.
Sedgewick	James S. McDonald.
Trochu	Sidney A. de Barethy.
Trochu	Frank Barnard.
Trochu	Frank Thynne.
Viking	James S. Barker.
Vermillion	Peter B. Pilkie.
Vulcan	William Alvin Schenk.
Warner	Albert P. Veale.
Wainwright	J. W. McQueen.
Wainwright	Frank Lush.
Wetaskiwin	Harvey E. Cutler.
Youngstown	James Woodman.

DEFEATING THE JAILS AND PENITENTIARY

The Juvenile Court would be seriously handicapped in its mission, if it were not for the Probation Officer, a sort of strong right arm, that can be relied upon to carry on the work when the Court is not in session. In dealing with adults, police officials have done their duty when they have arrested the culprit, presented the evidence to the Court, and secured a conviction. The individual found guilty is immediately transferred from their custody to that of the warden of the jail or penitentiary. The Probation Officer dealing with juveniles, when he has made his first investigations, secured a full report concerning the home conditions and whatever other evidence is necessary in order to make the Commissioner, presiding at the Court, familiar with all the circumstances of the case, has just begun his task. In about 75 per cent. of the cases before the Court, he is simply asked to continue his work with the delinquent in a very definite way. When a child is placed on probation, the Probation Officer becomes a kind of big brother to him. He undertakes to ascertain accurately his home conditions, his personal peculiarities, his associates, his amusements, the temptations to which he is especially liable, to find for him sufficient and proper channels into which his energies may be released. He seeks to know intimately the probationer's parents; indeed his most efficient work is done in awakening parents to a full sense of their duty. The interest and co-operation of parents once secured, other difficulties will be easily surmounted. Failure here will spell failure for the whole undertaking.

In some of the smaller towns and villages and in rural municipalities, we have made use of Volunteer Probation Officers.

A Note Re Volunteer Probation Officers

The thanks of the Department is due these men for the very efficient service which they have rendered. It is safe to say that 80 per cent. of the boys who were placed on probation during the year 1918, will make good, and will not again be heard of in court procedure. In the present stage, the greatest difficulty with which a Department of this kind has to contend is the feeling on the part of the public generally, that one Probation Officer can become father or big brother to scores of boys, living in different parts of the city, as well as attending to multitudinous duties in connection

The Success Of Probation

with investigations into new cases. It would be a saving to society in the long run, if the public, and through the public, our responsible officials, could be persuaded that it was good business to give any competent Probation Officer not more than

twenty boys to look after. This may seem like an expensive procedure, but when it is remembered that to maintain a boy in an Institution costs us at the present time at the rate of \$2.48 per day (and would, no doubt, in any well-appointed Institution cost at the very lowest \$1 a day), it will be readily seen that the probation system, in addition to having proved itself most efficient in reclaiming boys and protecting them from going further into the ways of crime, has the merit that it also is the cheapest method.

There is one other misconception with which the Department has to deal. Many seem to think that probation work is an old fogey's job, and we are constantly pressed to take into our service men of mature years who have had no previous experience in this kind of work. In any case, where that is done, the results are likely to be anything but satisfactory. What is needed is a strong, red-blooded, big-hearted individual, who knows how to companion with boys, and who at the same time is able to exert his authority and command unfailing respect. Probation work of the right quality demands high grade persons. Such persons cannot be obtained at the meagre salaries that are now offered.

No doubt, as society becomes more and more impressed with the idea that boys are the most valuable asset of the State, it will be increasingly easy to secure an adequate number of Probation Officers, and a fair remuneration for their services.

CARING FOR THE DELINQUENT GIRLS

The girl problem must be looked upon as a task peculiar to itself. Boys come before Courts for all kinds of misdemeanours and appear in larger numbers than girls. About 90 per cent. of the female delinquents who appear before our Commissioners are there for some sex delinquency. Many of the frail young creatures lose all that is most valuable in their lives before they can be fairly expected to realize the seriousness of their misconduct, or to understand what must be its inevitable result.

In about 75 per cent. of the cases brought before the Court, it is found possible to deal with the girl through the probation method, or what might be called a real "Big Sistering 'Teen Sister Movement." A lady Probation Officer takes the girl, finds for her a suitable home either with her parents or in some other private house, and keeps in close contact with her from week to week. By a careful system of instruction, as well as supervision, the girl is brought to understand the great truths of life, and to place them in their proper perspective. In many cases it is found that the girl has been more sinned against than sinning. Many young girls who have had unfortunate experiences, have told us in the presence of their mothers, that never in their lives was one serious word said to them concerning the deportment that would be expected of them when they went into company with the other sex, or the sacredness of preserving the purity of their bodies and of their minds.

Many are decoyed into automobiles, restaurants, rooming-houses, and other places where designing individuals take advantage of them. Men who make a business of deceiving girls in this way have so posted themselves with regard to law, that it is very difficult to secure the necessary evidence to convict them, and the girl alone bears the whole brunt of the matter.

It is easy to understand how an innocent individual falling into these traps through ignorance, can by careful training and help be rescued. The Department owes a great debt of gratitude to many kindly ladies who, with full knowledge of their history, have taken these girls into their homes and have treated them kindly and given them a second opportunity to make good. The matrons of the larger cities dealt last year in all with some 265 girls.

Sometimes it is found necessary to have a girl committed to an Institution. Last year there were 23 committed. Of these 50 per cent. were found to be infected with venereal diseases, and had to undergo long treatment. This fact alone would seem to be fair indication of how widespread these diseases are, and of the necessity of dealing with them in some more adequate

way. At the present time we are depending upon the Social Service Homes in Calgary and Edmonton, and the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, in Edmonton, for the care of these girls. We have only words of praise for the efficient women engaged in this work, and for what they have accomplished, handicapped as they are by lack of sufficient accommodation or equipment. We believe that the time has come when an effort should be made to secure a proper Institution adequately equipped for this special purpose. Experience would seem to show that girls of this type should have ample opportunity of exercise in fresh air. Institutions such as the Slade Farm in Philadelphia have been most successful, and largely because they have provided outdoor work of an interesting character to engage the attention of the girl.

The school also should provide opportunity for study in courses of sewing, millinery, and, for a few of those advanced enough in their school courses, typewriting and stenography, as well as a thorough course in house-keeping and domestic science.

When a girl has been kept in an Institution of this kind for a year or two, and is then released, she has a great deal with which to contend. Old paramours are only too ready to take advantage of her situation, and unless she feels that she can look the world squarely in the face with the assurance that she has an independent way of earning her own livelihood, she is too apt to fall the second time. The most critical time in the life of a girl committed for institutional training, is not when the door of the Institution closes upon her, but when it opens to let her back into the world. She faces then the necessity of making decisions which will determine the whole trend of her life. Without money, and without friends, she often drops back into the associations that first led her into waywardness, and becomes a confirmed offender. Conscious of these facts, the Department is making an earnest endeavor to give these girls especial care and attention. During the first few months after their release, during which time they are making the necessary adjustments to the ordinary ways of living again, an effort is made in each case, where it is not thought advisable for the girl to return to her own home, to find for her some suitable employment, and to keep in touch with her until she has demonstrated her desire and ability to do the right thing.

After Institution Care

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL PROBATION OFFICER

MISS JENNIE ROBINSON

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith my annual report of the work carried out in my branch of your Department for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

This year has been one of exceptional encouragement and discouragement. Encouragement because after years of effort, satisfactory results have ensued, in many cases. Discouragement owing to so much having to be left undone through pressure of work.

The question of preventive work, as being most essential, grows more and more upon me as I deal with girls. To this end much good is being accomplished by the Canadian girls in training of 'teen age, at which clubs I have been privileged to speak both in the city and at the Summer Camp at Fallis. The work especially introduces to the girls many-sided interests, which our girls need so much, as they have been so seriously handicapped, being utterly ignorant of any healthy interests. Home to many has been merely a shelter, their parents being incapable of creating the atmosphere which attracts and holds.

It has been especially gratifying to know that several of my older girls have entered professions or have married and are doing well in their own homes.

I cannot estimate too highly the co-operation of the ladies in whose homes many of the girls have been placed. Numerous instances of unselfishness toward the girls, and congenial hospitality personally received, have been afforded me in my extensive tours through the Province.

Preventive Work	
Co-operation Appreciated	
Girls receiving individual attention during the year	116
(Of these seventy-nine were wards.)	
Cases investigated	51
Number of times shopping with wards	73
Calls at doctors' offices re girls	36
Wards changed	96
Calls made on wards	687
Calls re placing wards, etc.	82
Calls on girls, not wards	143
Mileage covered by rail on the above work	8,509
Mileage covered by trail on above work	788

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JENNIE ROBINSON,

Provincial Probation Officer.

REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF CALGARY

MRS. MARY I. MATHESON

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

During the year we have been privileged to assist 110 girls. Of these twenty were Court cases, of which twelve were made wards of the Department, making in all forty wards.

Fifty of these girls are either in domestic service or in restaurants and laundries, etc. Six are doing light house-work and going to school. Twenty are school girls staying with their parents. Six are clerking, two at Business College, seven married. The others are in Institutions, or we have lost sight of them.

We organized a Girls' Club, which meets every week. The Central Methodist Church kindly loaned us one of its parlors. Unfortunately, this arrangement was not very satisfactory, and we oftener met at my own house, or some of the ladies who had girls entertained us. To these women I am deeply indebted, particularly Mrs. Beveridge, to whose house we have a standing invitation. Also Miss Kerr, who is always a friend to the girls, and has assisted at all our meetings.

When possible I shop with the girls, and try to teach them the value of money. At the large stores we are given discount. Some of the girls have started bank accounts.

Rendering Practical Assistance

I am very much indebted to Miss Pettigrew and Miss Sage (of the Social Service Home), to Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford, Juvenile Court Commissioners, Miss Brooking of the Y.W.C.A., and many others.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MARY I. MATHESON.

Probation Officer.

REPORT OF WOMEN PROBATION OFFICERS FOR THE CITY OF EDMONTON

MISS M. CHADWICK AND MISS EDITH A. NAVE

A. M. McDONALD,
Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

We have the honour to submit to you our report for the year 1918. During the year we have been kept very busy indeed answering the many demands that were made upon us. Our family continues to grow, though some of the girls have passed out of our control.

The majority of the girls that come under our care are those that have to earn their own living in somebody's kitchen, or in some of the worst class restaurants; and having none to interest themselves in them, have to seek out their own amusement, and as a result are too often led into the most questionable places. Many parents do not trouble themselves to find out what their daughters do in their off-time, or where they get the amusement which all young people crave. Of the girls that come from the country a great many are cut off from home influence, and too often fall a prey to the vultures that are forever seeking them. Many daughters of alien parents are accustomed to homes where immorality and vice are more or less common and when approached by us usually resent our interference, believing that we are acting as police officers, and spying on them, instead of being their friends.

The girls' confidence must first be secured, then suitable employment and clean amusement must be found for them. If it were only possible to develop a "Big Sister Movement," as a parallel to the "Big Brother Movement," a great deal could be accomplished.

Something About the Girls

When we consider that the future of the nation depends largely upon the girls as future mothers of our coming generation, we must needs realize our responsibility in protecting them from every possible evil.

The girls under our care are encouraged to visit us at our homes whenever they wish to, making use of us in any way that they may desire. The attached report shows that they have taken full advantage of this.

Attached is our report of work for the year:

Girls placed	57
Interviews with girls and adults at rooms	81
Visits with girls to doctors and dentists	46
Calls of business, re money matters, Court papers, transportations, etc.	107
Trains met, for or with children and girls	66
Shopping tours with or for girls	64
Meetings attended in interest of children's work	62
Trips escorting girls or children to or from Police or Juvenile Court	87
Trips escorting girls and children to places of work, to Institutions, etc.	283
Calls made with girls in quest of work	90
Times girls were entertained	94
Calls at cafes, hotels, cabarets, dance halls, movies, etc.	51
Visits with girls whilst at work in Institutions or ill	222
Out of office investigations, in answer to complaints, or for information, or consultation	323

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) M. CHADWICK,

(Signed) E. A. NAVE,

Probation Officers.

AN IMMEDIATE NECESSITY

As we have indicated elsewhere in this report, it costs us at the present time, for the boys maintained at Portage la Prairie Industrial Training School, \$2.48 per day for each boy there. In addition to that it requires approximately \$100 to send a boy to the Institution and have him returned to his home. The Province has no jurisdiction over what is done in the Institution outside of the formal supervision which it exercises. When a boy is sent to the Institution all home ties are practically broken, distance makes it impossible for him to be visited by his parents or relatives, and one of the bonds that should be used for his reclamation is completely broken.

In many respects the Institution at Portage la Prairie has done good work. The atmosphere of the home, we believe, is good. We think there is reason to hope, however, that the system of teaching trades will be completely re-organized. During 1918, there were twenty-three boys committed by us to this Institution, which cost the Province the sum of \$16,196.06.

Portage la Prairie Industrial School

We would like herewith to submit again a proposition which we ventured to submit to the Minister some time ago.

We suggested that a farm be secured on which there might be built, not an expensive institutional building, but one (or perhaps two) comfortable cottages. The boys could be placed in this school under the guardianship of suitable mentors interested in the boy problem. They could be instructed in the ordinary school curriculum and in farming. As the institution grew, other cottages and additional facilities for instruction could be added.

A Farm School

What we think should be avoided is the old idea of a big institution, entailing a tremendous overhead expense and necessitating the training of many boys of different dispositions and offences in one large group.

There would seem no reason why an institution for girls should not be placed in comparatively close proximity to that of the boys. An extra section of land or strip of land—making it possible for the Institutions to be placed, say, within one and a half, or two miles, of each other—could be secured. While there would not be any necessity for the inmates of the Institution coming in contact with each other, the whole farm operation could be placed under one competent business management. The boys could assist in the regular farming operations, caring for the stock, etc. The girls could be taught to do the baking and laundry work, to make butter and care for the poultry.

Combining the Business Management

Judging from our experience with these Institutions, it would seem as though when competent business management is secured, the inmates are treated as a secondary consideration. When the individual in charge gives his first consideration to the wards under his management, the business control is poor, and the cost of maintenance is high.

It might be possible to avoid this difficulty, if the two Institutions could be placed so that the whole business management could come under one competent person. Then a capable woman interested in the girl problem, and a capable man interested in the boy problem, could be placed in direct control of the Institutions, and the discipline and training of the inmates.

This might seem too large a programme to undertake immediately, but if the land could be secured and the work for the boys' Institution commenced immediately, the other could be proceeded with later.

PLACED IN REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS

Number Placed, 46.

Male	23
Female	23
	<hr/> 46

Offences (Male)

Theft	14
Incorrigible	5
Immoral	3
Forgery	1
	<hr/> 23

Nationality (Male)

English	2
Canadian	6
American	4
French-Canadian	2
Swede	1
Scotch	1
Indian	2
Hollander	1
Austrian	4
	<hr/> 23

Religion (Male)

Church of England	4
Roman Catholic	8
Presbyterian	3
Methodist	5
Baptist	1
Greek Catholic	1
Protestant	1
	<hr/> 23

Age (Male)

10 years	1
13 years	5
14 years	6
15 years	6
16 years	1
17 years	1
	<hr/> 23

Offences (Female)

Theft	1
Incorrigible	8
Immoral	14
	<hr/> 23

Nationality (Female)

Scotch	3
English	3
American	6
Canadian	6
Polish	1
Russian	2
German	2
	<hr/> 23

Religion (Female)

Church of England	2
Presbyterian	2
Baptist	3
Lutheran	6
Methodist	4
Roman Catholic	4
Salvation Army	1
Greek Catholic	1
	<hr/> 23

Age (Female)

14 years	1
15 years	4
16 years	12
17 years	6
	<hr/> 23

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

It would be little less than fatal to the Child-Saving Activities of the Province if the work were to be confined to that which is done by paid officials. Indeed, it is imperative

Children's Aid Societies Active that, so far as possible, the official side should not be unduly emphasized. Officials crowded with a daily routine of case work, are more or less liable to fall into a routine way of attending to their

duties, and to lose that heartiness and freshness which is so necessary in work for children. It is in this connection that our voluntary organizations, known as Children's Aid Societies, perform their best service. During the last four or five years, individuals willing to give their time for the uplift of society have been compelled to meet a multitude of calls, and no doubt many important activities have suffered as a result. We are glad to report that our Children's Aid Societies, due in part to the increased emphasis that has been placed upon the necessity of conserving child-life, have maintained their activities with increased interest and efficiency.

The organization in Alberta, which has recently been copied almost in its entirety by the Province of Saskatchewan, differs somewhat from that which obtains in the older provinces of Canada. In the latter the support of the work for neglected and dependent children is largely upon a voluntary basis, aided in many instances by municipal and government grants.

The Strength of the Organization Under this system the Children's Aid Society becomes responsible for the collection and distribution of funds. According to our system, municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more, provide for the maintenance of the work, but the supervision is placed in the care of the Society. The system in this province, we believe, is superior to that with which we have compared it, in that the welfare of the needy child is not dependent upon the fluctuation of voluntary donations. It is possible, however, that it fails to command the support of many individuals who, if they were called upon, would be glad to contribute to so worthy an effort, and who, with their contributions, would give also their individual influence and support. It is the ambition of the Department to make the work in itself so worthy that it will continue to command the support of the choicest of our citizens.

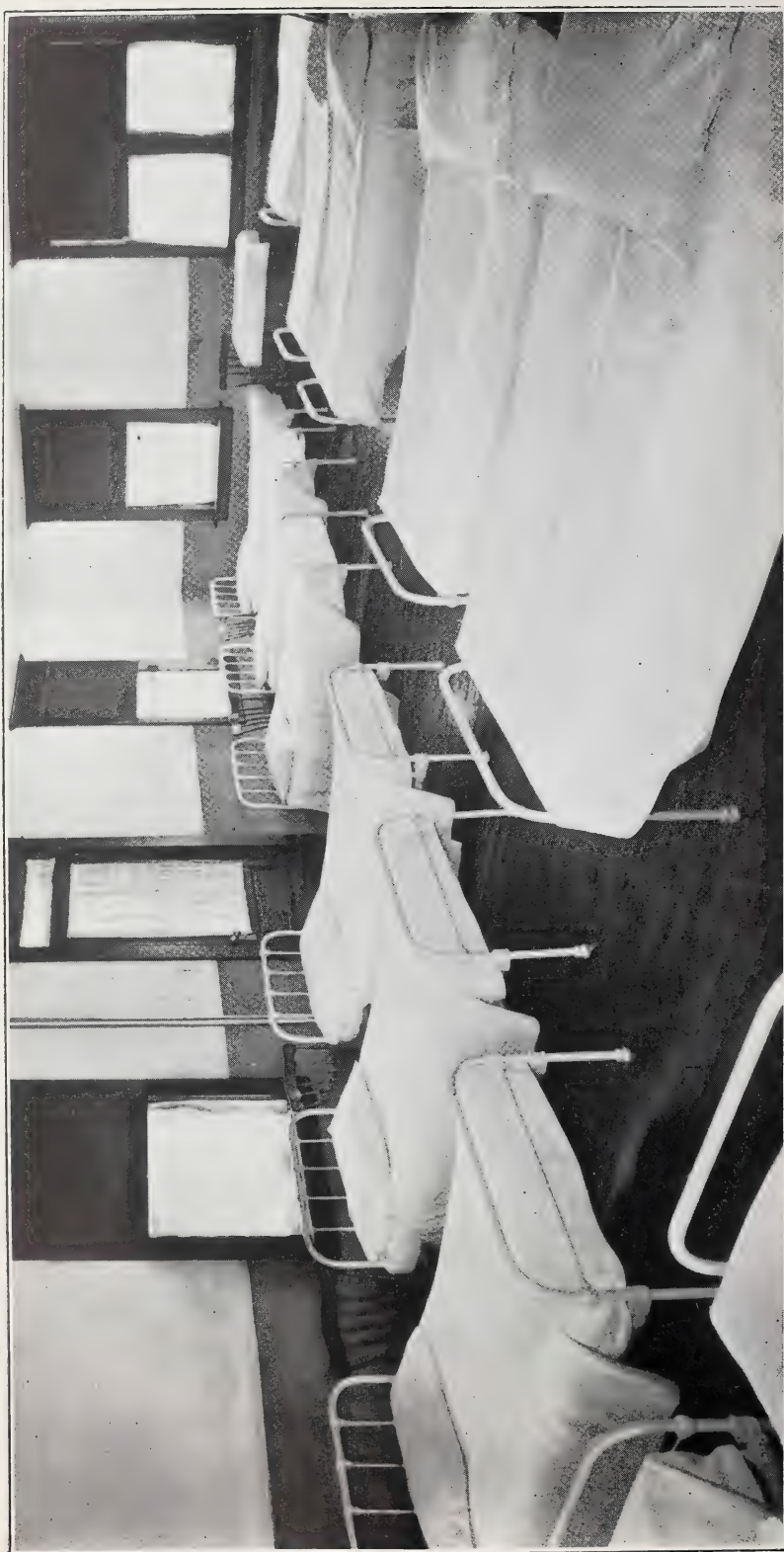
As we have already indicated, *The Children's Protection Act* gives the Children's Aid Society a specific duty to perform, namely, to supervise the work done by the Probation

Work Undertaken Officers, and in the Shelters or temporary homes. Naturally enough, these organizations have not been content to limit their efforts to this particular channel. In Edmonton, for instance, the Society has under its care what is known as the Children's Aid Boarding Home,

where a large number of children are cared for for varying periods, until such time as the parent or parents, who may have had misfortune, have time to reconstruct their homes. In this way a very valuable service has been rendered the community.

Children's Aid Societies are charged with the responsibilities of carrying on a campaign of education and prevention. There is no organization in the community better fitted to wage a real child welfare campaign than the **Campaign of Education** Children's Aid Society. It has agents who know conditions as no other agents or officers in the country know them. They represent to a large degree the leaders of various church and society organizations, and can command a widespread influence.

We hope that during the coming year these Societies will set out with determination upon a complete programme for the dissemination of reliable data concerning the modern methods of child saving.



Ward in Edmonton Shelter.

REPORT OF AGENT OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, EDMONTON

THOMAS S. MAGEE

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

In submitting statistics in connection with my work during 1918, I wish, in the first place, to point out that the work was particularly heavy, and that, realizing the necessity of quicker transportation, the City Council granted me the use of an auto, which has been of the greatest possible assistance; but, even with the auto, the probation end of the work was of necessity inadequately, if not almost entirely, neglected (save some formal reports at the office). Hence youths were constantly re-appearing as delinquents until public opinion was aroused, and the Council, recognizing that it was hopeless to expect one man to attend to the requirements of the entire city, appointed an assistant, Mr. Allan Munro, who, after some training, is now largely devoting his energies to probation work in order to try and influence boys' minds aright, and thereby possibly keep them out of the Industrial School.

I feel constrained, as I have been wont to do for years, to again call serious attention to the atmosphere in many of the homes from which such a large percentage of our delinquents come, in the hope that some means may be found to enable many hapless little ones to be trained to God and to the world.

STATISTICS DEALING WITH BOY OFFENCES

DELINQUENCY

There were 157 cases dealt with in Juvenile Court. The offences included house-breaking, theft, arson, damage to property, carnal knowledge, contributing to neglect of children, offences against city by-laws.

NEGLECT

Number charged as neglected children—110

Number made wards	92
Number dismissed	1
Number under supervision	17
	110
Males	53
Females	57
	110

**Number of adults charged with contributing to delinquency
or neglect—48**

Convicted	46
Dismissed	2
	48

There were 516 offences of various natures adjusted out of court, and in addition there were 2,018 complaints received and investigated during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) THOMAS S. MAGEE,

Agent of Children's Aid Society.

REPORT OF MEDICINE HAT CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

R. G. BLUNDELL

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit the annual report of our Society for the year 1918.

It has been a very difficult matter to compile the report for this year owing to the frequent changes in the office, and the peculiar nature of the facts to be tabulated. During the first seven months of the year, Mr. Curtis Hollinger carried on the work with his usual energy and efficiency. In August and September, Mr. J. Y. Surrey was in charge of affairs. In October the present Probation Officer was called to take up the work.

Cases dealt with under the Juvenile Delinquents Act

Males	26
Females	1

Total.... 27

Offence

Theft	22
Damage	2
Assault	3

27

Age of Delinquents

16 years of age	4
15 years of age	4
14 years of age	3
13 years of age	4
12 years of age	2
11 years of age	2
10 years of age	2
9 years of age	2
8 years of age	2
7 years of age	2

27

Disposition of Delinquents

Fined	6
Placed on probation	5
Suspended sentence	10
Dismissed	5
Case withdrawn	1

27

Cases dealt with under Children's Protection Act Number charged as neglected children—26

Males	10
Females	16

26

Made wards of the Department	21
Dismissed	5

26

Adults charged with contributing to neglect	1
Dismissed	1
Cases settled in Court	55
Cases settled out of Court	47
Cases investigated	63
Calls and interviews	1168

The demands made upon our forces during the four years of war have been steadily increasing, but we are hopeful that with the return of our manhood we may be in some measure released from part of that strain.

There has been an added task placed before us during the period of the epidemic, a task that brought us nearly to the breaking point. Over five hundred cases of influenza were visited. Our Shelter also was pressed into service as a Children's Hospital, and proved a great boon to the little sufferers; rarely less than twenty beds were occupied and we are pleased to record that we had no fatal cases of the disease. Our staff was kept busy to the utmost in the general work of relieving the sick.

We see many needs looming ahead of us, constituting a great challenge to us, and we purpose to meet them to the utmost of our ability.

We desire most sincerely to express our appreciation of the help afforded to us by the members of our executive, and many others who are interested in child welfare. The Rotary Club of our city has undertaken to help us in a special manner in looking after our delinquent boys. Our ladies have been doing splendid work in caring for our wards who are living in our vicinity.

We are trying to interest many of our men to help us secure a measure of reasonable recreation for the boys and girls whose lives are almost devoid of healthy amusement.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) R. G. BLUNDELL,

Probation Officer.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1918, MEDICINE HAT

Expenditure.	Estimated.	Actual.
Light, Heat and Water	\$ 80.00	\$ 182.39
Laundry and Cleaning	100.00	16.00
Salaries	2,940.00	2,880.72
Printing, Stationery and Postage	100.00	57.48
Telegrams, Telephones and Travelling	150.00	178.71
Clothing	142.00	142.52
Provisions	800.00	943.98
Furniture and Furnishings	100.00	83.98
Alterations and Repairs	275.00	386.63
Medicine and Sickness	100.00	52.85
Wards in other Shelters	200.00	124.95
Insurance and Miscellaneous	300.00	149.28
	<hr/> \$5,287.00	<hr/> \$5,199.49
Revenue.	Estimated.	Actual.
Reimbursements	\$ 700.00	\$ 904.60
	<hr/> \$ 700.00	<hr/> \$ 904.60

REPORT OF AGENT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, CALGARY

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith report of our Society for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

The history of our Society, since its organization in February, 1909, has been one of steady progress and expansion. The year just closed has been by far the busiest in the history of the Society. The great aims of the Society in protecting children from cruelty, caring for the neglected, providing foster-homes for the homeless, adjusting family troubles, and in saving the weak and the erring from criminal careers, have been kept steadily in view. Many unfortunate children, as a result, received the care and protection of the Society. Of these seventy innocent little ones, classed as "neglected" because of adversity or inability of the parents to provide homes, were tenderly cared for as wards of the Society, and finally placed in good foster homes.

Many children who, through the neglect of ignorant and careless parents, were wandering into paths of sin, were rescued by the Society and helped and guided into a better life.

A most encouraging sign of the times is the interest now being awakened in the child as the nation's greatest asset. The child is at last beginning to occupy the centre of the stage. As one result of the Great War, we are confronted to-day with many serious and perplexing problems. None are more vitally important than those relating to the home and the child. The appalling sacrifice of human life that has taken place on the battle-fields of Europe and throughout the world, during the last four years, greatly enhances the value of every child as a national asset, and correspondingly increases the vital importance to the State of all child-saving institutions. Among these none occupy a higher place than Children's Aid Societies.

The Child's Value as a National Asset

In the investigating of cases of neglect and delinquency, we are brought face to face with many of the most perplexing problems of human life. To check evil influences by providing wholesome environment, and thus to give every boy and girl a chance of becoming a good citizen, is the usual off-hand theoretical solution given re the problem of the delinquent child. But how difficult is the task of providing this environment, or improving life conditions without breaking up or destroying the home!

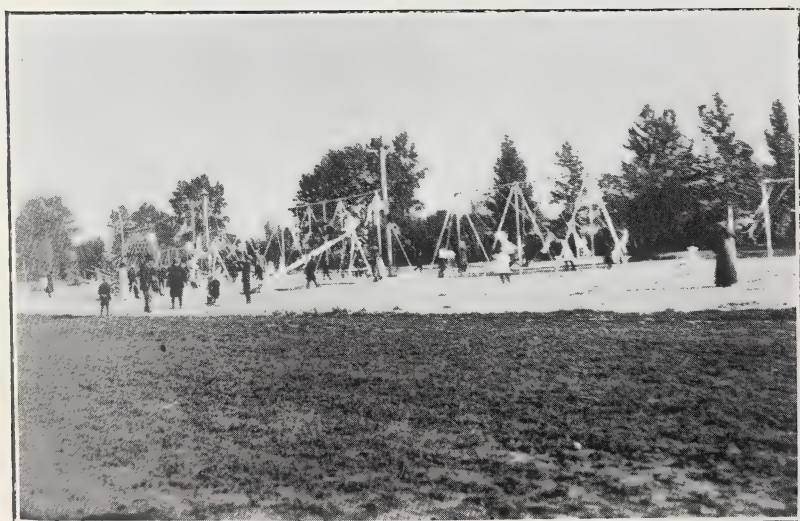
The Problem of the Godless Home

When one takes into consideration the ignorance and godlessness of so many parents, and the absence from the home of the simplest Christian teachings, is it any wonder that so many youths of both sexes, thrown upon society, without the possession of a spark of moral principle to restrain them, should fall before the temptations and snares which beset the pathway of the young? Here we have the problem of the godless home, out of which neglect and delinquency naturally come. In other words, the sins of the parents are being visited upon the children by an inevitable law of life.

Is the old-fashioned Christian home, with its inspiring ideals and influences, passing away? We refer to the menace of the godless home, with its usual concomitants of ignorance and wretchedness, in order to show the greatness of the problem before us. Let it be emphasized that it is no easy task to make good citizens out of the product of bad homes.



Playgrounds in Calgary.



Playgrounds in Calgary.

But the work is vital to the interests of the entire community, and if we are going to lay a foundation for the future, and produce a generation of clean-living, God-fearing men and women, fitted for the responsibilities of parentage and citizenship, the problem must be faced and solved. The Children's Aid Society, in keeping with its high aims, is taking a hand in the solution of this tremendous problem, and earnestly invites the co-operation and support of every agency making for the elevation of the home and the moral and physical well-being of the community.

Why should not the State provide some form of religious instruction in the public school? This would surely be a step in the right direction, and would tend to eliminate to some extent, at least,

Religious Instruction in the Public Schools Needed

the menace of the godless home. Large sums are spent annually in promoting stock-raising, improving breeds, etc., and, no doubt, the money is well expended. Why not give the child a fair chance? He is worth much more than a hog or an ox. If we cannot for the present have every child well-born, we should at least remove, where possible, the more serious handicaps, and allow the child to enter into his rightful heritage. Prevention is always better than cure.

During the year, 336 cases were dealt with in the Juvenile Court, as compared with 327 for the year 1917. Of these 213 were delinquency cases, the remaining 123 cases being mostly cases of neglect or contributory neglect.

Juvenile Court

The principal offences were theft, burglary and theft, assault, breach of by-law, damage to property, and mischief. One of the most serious cases dealt with was that of a gang of boys who organized under the name of "the Black Seven," with headquarters in an old dug-out. Their lootings aggregated about \$300. The gang was broken up, and restitution made by the parents. It is pleasing to report that these boys proved worthy of the chance given them, and are making good under changed environment.

On the whole the probation system has worked out well. Of the forty-nine youths placed on probation, very few have been up on a second or third offence. In almost all cases where parents co-operate with the officers of the Society the results are satisfactory.

Probation Working Well

There were 127 sessions of the Court held, as compared with 84 sessions last year. The presiding judges were J. M. Sharpe, F. D. Beveridge, and Rev. A. McTaggart, for the boy cases, and Mrs. R. R. Jamieson and Mrs. F. Langford for the girl and neglected infant cases.

Our Court Judges

It would be impossible to over-estimate the value to the community of the work of the Juvenile Court, and when it is remembered that these Juvenile Court Commissioners are giving their services free, in the interests of child-saving and protection, the extent of the city's obligation becomes at once apparent.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1918

Number of Juvenile Court cases—336

Males	254
Females	82
	<hr/>
	336
Sessions of Court held	127
Delinquents	213
Males	205
Females	8
	<hr/>
	213

Ages of Children Offences		Disposition of Delinquents	
Theft	102	Fined	63
Burglary and theft	18	Dismissed and withdrawn	58
Breach of by-laws	50	Suspended sentence	7
Assault	4	Portage la Prairie School	2
Damage to property	33	Deported	1
Mischief	3	Probation and Restitution	75
Delinquency	3	Sent to country	2
		Sent to Shelter	2
		Made wards	3
	213		213

There were in all 49 youths placed on probation.

Ages of Delinquents			
4 years	1	12 years	26
5 years	1	13 years	31
6 years	1	14 years	41
7 years	3	15 years	41
8 years	9	16 years	24
9 years	7	17 years	1
10 years	13		
11 years	14		213

Neglected Children	
Number charged as Neglected Children.....	99
Number made wards	81
Dismissed	1
Supervision	11
Fined	2
Placed in Shelter	3
Placed on Probation	1
	99

ADULTS CHARGED WITH CONTRIBUTING TO NEGLECT

Number—21

Dismissed	8
Fined	1
Suspended Sentence	6
Supervision	5
Imprisonment (1 year)	1
	21
Selling cigarettes to minors (fined \$10 and costs)	2
Permitting minor to frequent pool-room (fined \$10 and costs)	1

Many cases came before the Society that are not included in the figures given above. Probably some of our very best work was done in relation to cases of which no tabulated records were made. Moral or spiritual results do not easily lend themselves to statistical form.

Many Cases Settled out of Court

There were 335 licenses issued to newsboys during the year. Except for a few breaches of by-law requiring the purchase of a license and wearing of a badge, and sundry violations of the nuisance law at the C. P. R. Station. the conduct of the newsboys was all that could be desired.

Newsboys

There were 1,854 visits made to homes, pool-rooms, dance-halls, cabarets, tobacco stores, theatres and other places. There were twenty-one persons prosecuted for contributing to the neglect of children. This does not include prosecutions for selling cigarettes to children, or allowing minors to frequent pool-rooms. Of the neglect cases, eight were dismissed. One man received a sentence of one year's imprisonment; the others were either fined or placed under suspended sentence.

Contributing to Neglect

The number of cases requiring attention was not unusually large. Last year ninety cases received treatment. The principal treatments were for eyes, nose, teeth, ears, tonsils, adenoids, etc. The thanks of the Society are due Dr. A. T. Spankie, Dr. A. E. Hennigar, Dr. Hackney and Dr. Leacock for special work in relation to these cases. Also to Dr. Mahood for many favors in regard to the examination of children, and to Drs. Follett, O'Callahan, Francis, Wilson, Egbert, McKid, Lincoln, Anderson, Murray, Stockton, Gibson and Wright, for much appreciated services as visiting physicians at the Shelter.

Medical Treatment

The influenza epidemic, which seemed to reach its culmination here during the months of October and November, very greatly increased our work. Quite a large number of children from affected homes, or children who were in danger of exposure to the disease, were thrown upon our hands. To relieve the situation, the Stanley Jones School was opened, and placed in charge of Miss Cook, of the Children's Shelter, as Matron. Volunteer help was secured, and every effort made to insure the best care and comfort of the children. In all some fifty children were cared for at the School.

The Influenza Epidemic

Mention should be made here of the death of Miss Huggard, who contracted the dread disease while acting as assistant at the School, and passed away. The late Miss Huggard was a beautiful Christian girl, and, in a very real sense, gave up her life for others. A memo. re her death has been recorded in the minutes of the Society.

Death of Miss Huggard

Another death which came home very close to us and grieved our hearts, was that of Miss Clint, Matron, which occurred at the Shelter on October 31. The late Miss Clint was engaged as Matron on September 1, 1914, and thus served the Society in that capacity for a little over four years. She was a young woman of very pleasing personality, and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the Society throughout the term of her engagement. A suitable memo. of her death has been inscribed on the record book of the Society.

Death of Miss M. L. Clint

Less than one week later, or on November 6, another from the circle of our friendship and service was called away. I refer to the death of Mrs. Bagnall, the news of which brought deep sorrow to many a heart. The late Mrs. Bagnall was our first lady probation officer, and very faithfully and efficiently served the Society in that capacity for nearly four years. She was a most lovable woman, and the memory of her beautiful and devoted life will long be cherished by her many friends. Our minutes contain a suitable memo. of her death.

Death of Mrs. E. H. Bagnall

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) A. D. McDONALD,

Agent Children's Aid Society.

REPORT OF LETHBRIDGE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

W. LAMB

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith the annual report of our Children's Aid Society for the year 1918.

Regular Staff:

Probation Officer	W. Lamb
Matron	Miss Lewis

Cases Handled by the Juvenile Commissioners, Canon W. V. McMillan
and J. D. Higinbotham

The number of children brought before the Juvenile Commissioners was thirty-one. These were for the following offences:

Riding bicycles on the sidewalk	4
Theft	4
Obtaining money by false pretences	2
Forgery	2
Purse-snatching	1
Breaking in stores	4
Beyond the control of parents	2
Disturbing the peace	3
Sent to Industrial School	4
Made wards of the Department	5

31

Two hundred and sixty-five children who figured in minor infractions of a varied nature, such as destroying property, fighting, annoying neighbors, and making mischief in general were dealt with out of the Court. In all cases where property was damaged or taken, through the malefactions of the offenders, it has been replaced or paid for.

Twenty-eight children were picked up after curfew hours, or lost, etc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Monthly Expenses		Monthly Income	
January	\$469.55	January	\$ 45.25
February	302.03	February	79.90
March	235.63	March	89.85
April	412.50	April	100.95
May	327.09	May	64.75
June	414.93	June	65.40
July	465.73	July	45.25
August	352.27	August	73.75
September	361.48	September	77.00
October	463.80	October	45.25
November	407.73	November	116.92
December	434.00	December	122.15
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$4,646.74		\$ 926.42

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) WILLIAM LAMB.

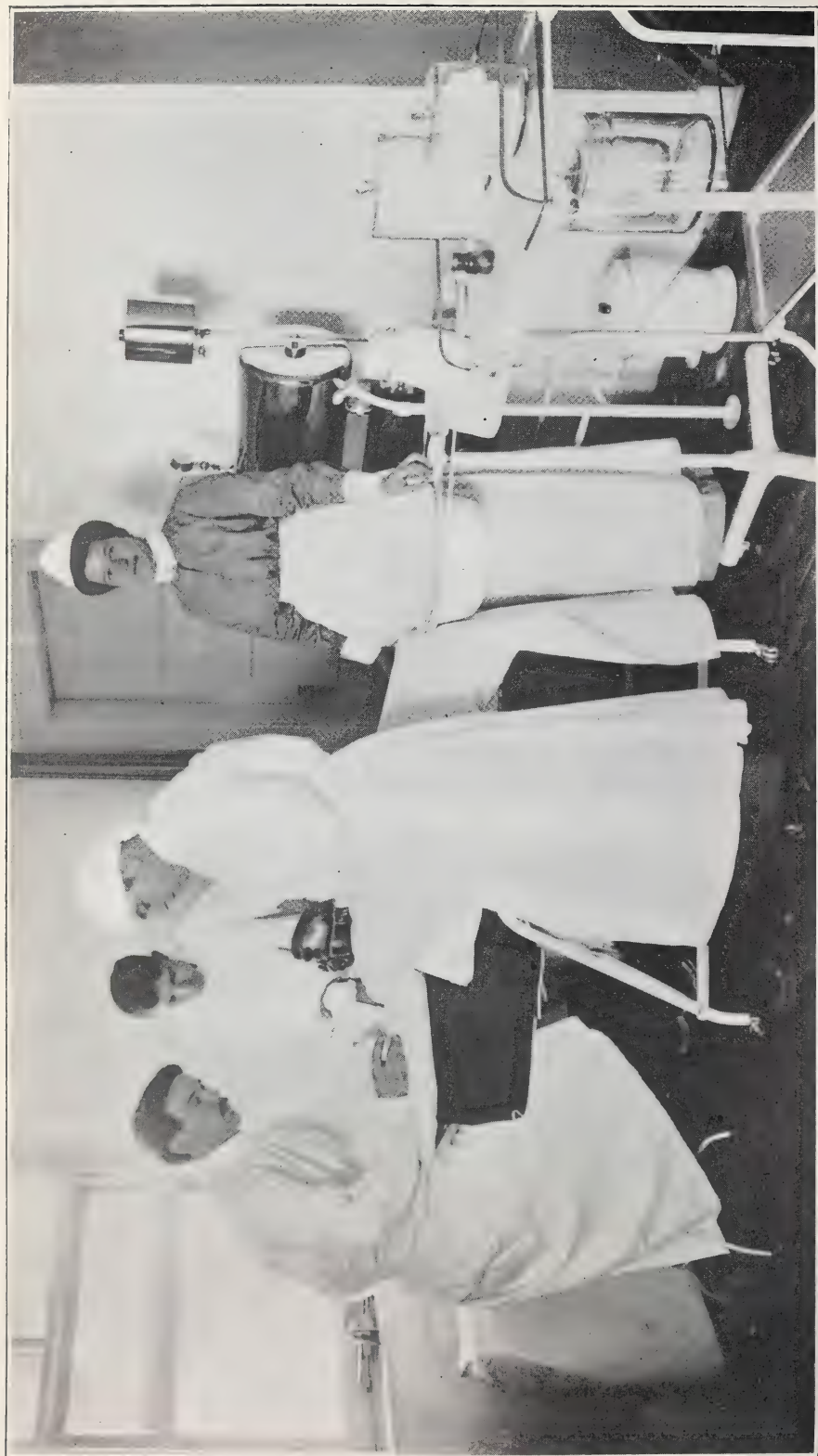
OUR TEMPORARY HOMES

In the province, there are four temporary homes commonly known as Shelters, through which there passed, in the year 1918. 808 children.

The work in these Institutions varies but little from year to year. A growing experience emphasizes the necessity of making certain that the unfortunate boys and girls who come within their influence are, during their brief stay, definitely impressed for good. It would not be easy to imagine a more difficult task than that which is placed before the Matrons and their assistants, in seeking to perform service for the large number of children that pass under their care. They remain in the majority of cases only for a short period. They are of all ages, from infants of a few days to young men and women of seventeen and eighteen years. They represent every race, sect, and religion. They exhibit every conceivable variety of need. A considerable proportion of them come from homes broken up by the separation of the parents or by the desertion of one or both of them. Some have lost one or both parents by death. Some are foundlings and other deserted children of unknown parentage. Probably one-fourth of them are children having both parents living. This group includes cases of cruelty, parents sent to hospitals for the insane, to prison, and other cases of physical, mental or moral unfitness.

A mere statement of these abnormal family conditions makes the work look altogether discouraging, but owing to the wonderful recuperative powers of the average little child, there is reasonable hope that 90 per cent. of these boys and girls will grow up into efficient citizens. It is difficult to leave any lasting impression on groups of children, representing so many types and nationalities, and remaining for the most part only for brief periods; yet it is in these Institutions where many of the wards of this Department receive their first instructions in living normal lives in contact with other people, in how to properly care for their physical requirements, to clothe themselves, and even how to deport themselves at a properly arranged table.

One side of the work upon which we are placing more and more insistence, is the Medical Department. Between 60 and 70 per cent. of these children coming from homes that are not normal, are found to be suffering from physical defects, which if taken early are easily remedied, but if left for any considerable period, may become permanent and be a serious handicap to the child in after years. We have to perform almost innumerable minor operations for hernia, adenoids, tonsils, and other children's defects. A



The operating room in the Edmonton Shelter, where a great many minor operations are performed.

great number also have to be treated by eye, ear, and nose specialists for defects in vision, hearing, and kindred ailments.

Many of the very small babes that come under our charge, are found to be in an under-nourished, under-vitalized state, and it takes a great deal of care and patience, combined with energy, to save their lives and give them a proper foundation for future physical health.

The time has come when in the larger Shelters, definite provision should be made for the complete segregation of the older delinquent children. Evil communications corrupt good manners. No opportunity should be

**Segregation
Ordered**

given evil-disposed youths to contaminate by influence, or conversation, the younger children in the Shelter. This safeguard could easily be provided without the expense of another Institution under separate management.

Nurses of these Departments are worthy of a good deal of commendation for the admirable results which have been obtained.

Before closing this paragraph, we cannot but refer to the great loss sustained by the Shelter in Calgary, in the death of its late Matron, Miss Clint. For a number of years she had under her care a family varying from 45 to 55, and was able to do the work in a way that commended itself to all who knew her and the Institution. She was one of those who gave themselves unsparingly in nursing "flu" patients and there is little doubt that she forfeited her own life in her unselfish efforts to relieve suffering people. It will not be easy to find a suitable successor for her.



An hour after they were taken to the Shelter.



The next day.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, EDMONTON

MRS. G. BATE

A. M. McDONALD,
Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

Permit me to submit the following report of the Children's Shelter for the year ending December 31, 1918:

As Shelter work means the feeding, clothing, training and caring for the health of children, and goes on the same from year to year, there seems nothing new to report for the year just past. The introduction of new features in the work is something to be hoped for in the future; for instance, employment of some kind to keep boys busy while in Shelter, also segregation of criminal boys whose influence over boys of tender years is evidently harmful. In November the Shelter was visited by influenza, of which there were twenty-seven cases and two resultant deaths. Quarantine was maintained for four weeks.

Twenty-one operations were performed during this year, chiefly the removing of tonsils and adenoids.

Number of children dealt with	769
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Neglected and Dependent

Male	361
Female	271

632

Delinquent

Male	107
Female	30

137

Age of Children

1 year and under	133	10 years and under	29
2 years and under	75	11 years and under	45
3 years and under	33	12 years and under	32
4 years and under	21	13 years and under	54
5 years and under	23	14 years and under	63
6 years and under	31	15 years and under	51
7 years and under	22	16 years and under	66
8 years and under	32	17 years and under	24
9 years and under	35		

769

Number of children in Shelter at end of the year:

Male	21
Female	7

28

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) G. BATE,

Matron.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, CALGARY

MISS M. L. COOKE

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

In the statistics for the past year, it will be noted that the number of children admitted to the Shelter has greatly increased. It is difficult to give an adequate idea on paper of the work involved in caring for so many children, when 35 per cent. are three years of age and under. There is very little romance in looking after and constantly tending to the cleanliness, clothing and sustenance of such a number.

There have been difficulties, drawbacks and discouragements, yet in surveying the work as a whole, there have been very satisfactory and even marvellous results, which have served as an inspiration for continued effort.

Perhaps the most interesting department of the work is the care of the infants. Although the majority of these babies are suffering from malnutrition, it is surprising and gratifying, in many cases, to note how quickly they respond to the loving care which they receive; in consequence of which they soon leave us to brighten lonely homes.

For the children ranging in ages from four years and over educational facilities are provided by the Public School Board, thus giving these children the same chance as those in more fortunate circumstances. Individual attention is given by the teacher as far as possible, and special classes in the evening are held for the backward in the senior grades. They have readily responded to the interest taken in them.

Outside of the schoolroom the children are trained to assume a certain amount of responsibility, each being assigned his share of work in the maintenance of order and cleanliness of the Home. Thus they feel they are members of the Home as a family, by contributing to its well-being.

The health of the children has always received the first consideration. It had been very excellent until the outbreak of the influenza, when nearly every member of the Shelter suffered from its visitation. We sustained the sad loss of the Matron, Miss Clint, who fell a victim to the dread disease. In the midst of the influenza, another epidemic visited us. Scarlet fever broke out. Some fourteen cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital, where one girl died. We feel deeply indebted to all who assisted us through this trying time. Especially we would mention Dr. Wright, who generously and promptly gave us so much of his valuable service.

Care of Health

The garden was a partial failure, due to weather conditions. The children took great delight in **planting** a large flower and vegetable garden of their own, under the supervision and help of the teachers. But much to their disappointment, when the garden was nicely up, a hot blast of wind scorched and uprooted it all. The potato yield, however, was good, the best crop we have yet had.

The recreation of the children received due attention. They have enjoyed picture shows, concerts, picnics, games, etc., under the supervision of the teacher. Christmas was celebrated in the true spirit of the season. We thank all those friends who contributed towards its success. On Monday, December 23, the children had the treat of a beautifully-laden Christmas tree. Each child was generously remembered, as well as all the members of the staff and help. It was

Providing for Recreation

pronounced the best one they have yet had. Many thanks are due to the committee for its generous aid in contributing to the happiness of all. The soldiers' children also shared in the treats provided by the Rotary Club and the military in the city.

The grounds around the Shelter have been graded and terraced, and enclosed by a very nice fence. Though we suffer greatly from the dust blown in by every wind, making it almost impossible to keep the house clean, we look forward to the time when they will add beauty and comfort to the Institution.

STATISTICS

Number in Shelter, Jan. 1, 1918	48
Number admitted during year	198
Total number in Shelter during year	246
Number discharged during year	199
Number present December 31, 1918	47
Number placed in foster homes	37
Number returning to parents	118
Number sent to hospital	28
Number placed at work	6
Number died at Shelter	2
Number ran away from Shelter	1
Otherwise disposed of	7

Ages of Children in Shelter during Year

1 year and under	42	11 years and under	13
2 years and under	23	12 years and under	8
3 years and under	12	13 years and under	6
4 years and under	23	14 years and under	4
5 years and under	21	15 years and under	5
6 years and under	14	16 years and under	3
7 years and under	17	17 years and under	1
8 years and under	16		
9 years and under	18		236
10 years and under	10		

In conclusion, allow me to thank the president and committee for all the kindness and consideration shown to the Shelter during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
 (Signed) M. L. COOKE,
Matron.

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER AT MEDICINE HAT

MRS. M. SMITH

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit the following report for the year 1918. Notwithstanding the ever-increasing cost of living, the Shelter has been well provided for, the children having all necessary food and clothing. Considering the low vitality of many of the children when admitted, sickness has been very slight. The epidemic of measles was caused by a child who had been exposed to this disease, previous to being received at the Shelter. There is great need of a hospital ward, and the matron suggests the completion of the third storey room for this purpose.

The family being restored to the Shelter after occupying temporary quarters during the epidemic, were made very happy at Christmas time by the kindness of friends.

Children dealt with at the Shelter during the year	57
At the beginning of the year in the Shelter (five girls and four boys) ..	9
Admitted during the year (33 girls and 15 boys)	48
	<hr/> 57

Disposition of Children during the Year

Returned to parents and guardians	26
Adopted	2
Placed for work	17
Sent to Social Service Home	1
Sent to Calgary Shelter	1
Died during year	1
In Shelter December 31	9
	<hr/> 57

Ages of Children

1 year and under	8	9 years and under	1
2 years and under	1	10 years and under	1
3 years and under	3	11 years and under	1
4 years and under	5	12 years and under	0
5 years and under	2	13 years and under	5
6 years and under	2	14 years and under	5
7 years and under	1	15 years and under	4
8 years and under	1	16 years and under	8

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) M. SMITH,

Matron.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, LETHBRIDGE

MISS EMMA E. LEWIS

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

During the past year thirty-five children have passed through the Shelter, nine of whom have been infants:

Two young women beyond the age of *The Children's Protection Act* were taken into the Shelter and cared for until provision was made for their babies. These girls were without money or friends.

During the "flu" epidemic we had night school for the boys and girls in the Shelter, so that their time would not be lost, and they would be able to make their grade this year. We taught all the larger children to knit, and fifteen pairs of socks were handed to the I.O.D.E. and Red Cross as a result.

The babies given out have all found good homes, and have given joy to their foster-parents.

We hope it will be possible some day soon to separate the delinquent boys and girls from those who are just neglected. I feel sure that evil is done by the close association in the Home of these two classes.

Now that the war is over and the fathers are getting home, we hope that the evil tendencies that have thriven under war conditions will be overcome. We hope that the public will be roused to take a greater interest in children, and in the more intelligent plans that are being devised for their betterment.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) EMMA E. LEWIS,

Matron.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Work of the kind that is attempted by a Department such as this would be exceedingly difficult were it not for the sympathy and co-operation of a great many persons and agencies. We think we have been extremely fortunate in the whole-hearted support which has been given to us by those with whom we have been most closely associated during the past year. It is increasingly easy to elicit the support of the public for any movement intended to help unfortunate children. The increased interest of this class is manifested in the number of inquiries that come to us, asking for information concerning the work which we are attempting to do, and the help that is proffered by a large number of these inquirers. In a very general way we would like to express our appreciation of this whole-hearted interest and to assure the public that it means a great deal more to the children than would seem apparent at first sight.

Special mention should be made of the foster-parents, who have received as their own homeless and destitute children and are training them into useful citizenship :

Of the Provincial and Municipal Police forces, who have always been ready to lend their assistance and active co-operation in enforcing *The Children's Protection Act*, and without whose assistance it would have been impossible to accomplish much of the important work referred to in this report :

Of the institutions which have received and cared for many children with whom it was otherwise impossible to deal, among which should be mentioned the Social Service Home in Calgary, the Social Service Home in Edmonton, the Beulah Home in Edmonton, the Lacombe Home in Midnapore, Youville Convent in St. Albert, and the Sisters of the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Edmonton :

Of the medical men, many of whom have most willingly given their time and skill to remedying physical defects without any thought of remuneration :

Of the commissioners appointed in the various districts of the province, who have exercised so much patience and insight in making satisfactory disposition of the cases brought before them :

Of the newspapers, which have shown so much courtesy in publishing articles sent to them and devoting their space so generously to the greater problem of child-saving in the community :

Of the various churches, and kindred organizations, which have so heartily co-operated with us in extending the plea for the betterment of conditions of child life, and in many cases interesting people who otherwise would have given little thought to the good of the dependent and delinquent children in Alberta.

